

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television. Cable competition is what I'm most concerned about. I tried AT&T cable and the picture quality was lousy. When I called to ask about it they said, 'There's nothing we can do.' The quality on Dish has been fantastic. The reason the merger is important is because the cable companies (cable lobby) are able to bully the content providers into exclusive or inequitable contracts that reduce my chances of getting the content I want on Dish.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.